(b) whether the new rail services on these sections would provide a ..ost to the much-needed tourism in the North Eastern Region; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) To cater to the needs of New Delhi-New Jalapiguri sector, it is proposed to increase the frequency of 2435/2436 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express from 2 days a week to 4 days a week during 2002-2003.

However, introduction of additional trains services, on the Kolkata New Jalpaiguri sector and Mumbai-New Jalpaiguri sector, is not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

(b) and (c) To cater to the needs of the tourists and other passengers and to clear the extra rush during peak season, 201/202 Guwahati-New Delhi Summer Special and 203/204 Guwahati-Dadar Summer Special were run between 13.4.2002 and 18.06.2002 and 18.04.2002 and 23.06.2002 respectively.

Supply of Rail Neer at railway stations

402. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway proposes to supply purified, clean drinking water named "Rail Neer" from October 7, 2002 on railway stations and in certain passenger trains;

(b) if so, what could be its price per bottle;

(c) whether this purified drinking water would be made available in other Railway Zones also; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), a public limited company under the Ministry of Railways, has proposed to establish complete purification and bottling plants for packaged drinking water for exclusive sale at railway premises and on trains. The target date to introduce Rail Neer is by 31.12.2002.

(b) Sale price of package drinking water is Rs. 10 per 1000-ml bottle.

(c) and (d) Such plants will be set up across the Indian Railways at suitable places in subsequent phases. Two locations at Delhi and Danapur have been identified for setting up plants for "Rail Neer".

Sale of MNC's products at railway stations

†403. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sale of Indian products with ISI mark has almost stopped due to sale of products of Multi National Companies at the Railway stations;

(b) if so, whether Government would reconsider their decision to protect the small scale industries of the country and the livelihood of persons engagedk therein; and

(c) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Increasing ordinary class train coaches

†404. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is scarcity of ordinary class coaches in the long distance fast trains;

(b) whether it is a fact that ordinary class passengers have to face a lot of inconvenience due to scarcity of these coaches; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to include more ordinary class coaches category to these trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.